# *SWAZILAND*

# COUNTRY PROFILE

**IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21:
REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE SINCE THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, 1992**

**Information Provided by the Government of SWAZILAND to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development**
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**New York**

*United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development*
*Division for Sustainable Development*
*The Information contained in this Country Profile is also available on the World Wide Web, as follows:*
***http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit***

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# *SWAZILAND*

**This country profile has been provided by:**

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**Date:** March 26, 1997

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*All statistics are rendered as provided by the respective Governments.*

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## ACRONYMS

| | |
|---|---|
| APELL | Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level |
| CFC | chlorofluorocarbon |
| CGIAR | Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research |
| CILSS | Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel |
| EEZ | exclusive economic zone |
| ECA | Economic Commission for Africa |
| ECE | Economic Commission for Europe |
| ECLAC | Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean |
| ELCI | Environmental Liaison Centre International |
| EMINWA | environmentally sound management of inland water |
| ESCAP | Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific |
| ESCWA | Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| GATT | General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade |
| GAW | Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO) |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| GEMS | Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP) |
| GEMS/WATER | Global Water Quality Monitoring Programme |
| GESAMP | Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution |
| GIPME | Global Investigation of Pollution in Marine Environment (UNESCO) |
| GIS | Geographical Information System |
| GLOBE | Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment |
| GOS | Global Observing System (WMO/WWW) |
| GRID | Global Resource Information Database |
| GSP | generalized system of preferences |
| HIV | human immunodeficiency virus |
| IAEA | International Atomic Energy Agency |
| IAP-WASAD | International Action Programme on Water and Sustainable Agricultural Development |
| IARC | International Agency for Research on Cancer |
| IBSRAM | International Board of Soil Resources and Management |
| ICCA | International Council of Chemical Associations |
| ICES | International Council for the Exploration of the Sea |
| ICPIC | International Cleaner Production Information Clearing House |
| ICSC | International Civil Service Commission |
| ICSU | International Council of Scientific Unions |
| IEEA | Integrated environmental and economic accounting |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agricultural Development |
| IGADD | Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development |
| IGBP | International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (ICSU) |
| IGBP/START | International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme/Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training |
| ILO | International Labour Organisation |
| IMF | International Monetary Fund |
| IMO | International Maritime Organization |
| INFOTERRA | International Environment Information system (UNEP) |
| IOC | Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission |
| IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change |
| IPCS | International Programme on Chemical Safety |
| IPM | integrated pest management |
| IRPTC | International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals |
| ITC | International Tin Council |
| ITTO | International Tropical Timber Organization |

**ACRONYMS (Cont'd)**

| | |
|---|---|
| IUCN | International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources |
| MARPOL | International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development |
| PGRFA | plant genetic resources for agriculture |
| PIC | prior informed consent procedure |
| SADCC | South African Development Co-ordination Conference |
| SARD | sustainable agriculture and rural development |
| UNCTAD | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNDRO | Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| UNIDO | United Nations Industrial Development Organization |
| UNU | United Nations University |
| WCP | World Climate Programme (WMO/UNEP/ICSU/UNESCO) |
| WFC | World Food Council |
| WHO | World Health Organization |
| WMO | World Meteorological Organization |
| WWF | World Wide Fund for Nature (also called World Wildlife Fund) |
| WWW | World Weather Watch (WMO) |

## OVERVIEW

(You may wish to use pages v and vi to briefly present your national position five years after UNCED)

Swaziland is a small, landlocked country of 17,364 square kilometers bounded to the East by Mozambique and otherwise surrounded by South Africa.

Geographically, Swaziland is unique. Despite its small area, the country is divided into four distinct physiographic regions from west to east. The Highveld, to the west, comprises mountains with numerous rivers, waterfalls and gorges. The climate is temperate with warm, wet summers and cool to cold dry winters. The Middleveld incorporates fertile soils and valleys with views of the Highveld and Lowveld. The warm climate is ideal for growing various crops and much of the agricultural activity is found in this region. The Lowveld is sub-tropical and is where two of the country's major crops, sugar and citrus, thrive. The Lubombo Escarpment is mountainous and is the dividing line between Swaziland and Mozambique. The climate is sub-tropical with mixed farming being the major activity. The population of Swaziland is approximately 8,000,000 people, with an agricultural based economy.

Like most developing countries, Swaziland has been faced with the dilemma of having to accommodate great environmental changes to provide for its growing population needs. The country's development programme lacks the direction and long-term planning policies that incorporates environmental impact assessment (EIA). Such development includes clearing of large tracts of land for agriculture, removal of wildlife and human beings to marginal lands, excavation of landscape for road networks and mining activities, and the establishment of processing factories without comprehensive waste management plans.

## SWAZILAND

**1. Key National Sustainable Development Coordination Mechanism(s)/Council(s).**
Swaziland Environment Authority (SEA).

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**2. Membership/Composition/Chairperson**
**2a. List of ministries and agencies involved:**

**2b. Names of para-statal bodies and institutions involved, as well as participation of academic and private sectors:**

**2c. Names of non-governmental organizations:**

**3. Mandate role of above mechanism/council:**

**4. If available, attach a diagram (organization chart) showing national coordination structure and linkages between ministries:**

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

(See pages vii and viii at the beginning of the profile)

**NATIONAL PRIORITY:**

**STATUS REPORT:**

The Department of the Environment is under the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Communications. The Department of the Environment acts as the Secretariat of the body dealing with environmental issues known as the Swaziland Environment Authority (SEA). The SEA was established through an Act of Parliament in November 1992. Presently, environmental legislation is catered over several ministries and government departments. However, the Swaziland Environment Act, 1992, supersedes all other environmental legislation in the country. The main function of the Authority is to coordinate the government's effort to incorporate environmental factors into Swaziland's development process. In addition to this crucial role, the Authority has wide ranging responsibilities to:

1. Coordinate all environmental issues in the country;
2. Monitor environmental quality;
3. Set environmental standards;
4. Develop environmental policies;
5. Implement and enforce mechanisms to ensure that environmental consideration is taken into account in the authorization and management of development.

The setting up of the Authority is probably the most significant achievement for the Government of Swaziland as it has laid down a firm foundation for coordination and overseeing the implementation of environmental programmes. As a new organization, the Authority has still to establish various mechanisms, legislation and partnership agreements with other bodies before it can fully address much of its mandate. However, major achievements to date include:

1. Drafting and gazetting of environmental audit assessment and review regulations as contained in Legal Notice No. 58 of 1996;
2. Review of the first EIA statements prepared under the new Regulations;
3. Ratification and participation in a number of environmental conventions, i.e. (Please refer to Chapter 39).
   -- Convention on Biodiversity ratified in 1994;
   -- Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, ratified in 1992;
   -- Convention to Combat Desertification, ratified in 1996;
   -- Framework Convention on Climate Change, ratified in 1996;
   -- Convention on Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, ratified in 1996;
4. Preparation of an Environmental Issues Paper;
5. Coordination and Preparation of the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP);
6. Conducting Environmental Awareness campaigns throughout Swaziland.

The formulation process for environmental legislation should be the responsibility of everybody. However, it is a known fact that the involvement of everybody has problems and is at times counter-productive. In Swaziland, the SEA, other government agencies having environmental laws under their jurisdiction, the Ministries of Economic Planning and Development and Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, are responsible for the effective implementation of environmental legislation. This does not, in any way, preclude the participation of the broader cross-section of the population. Public participation effectively allows people to have a say in future policies that will affect them and to attain a sense of ownership, which is an important ingredient for the success of environmental programmes. Ideally, the approval of programmes or its analysis rests entirely on the decision-making authority of government. If the authorizing agency encounters problems or is in doubt about analysis, then the issue at hand is forwarded to SEA for further classification and analysis. This is where the involvement of the public is considered or whether the proponent has to provide more information to allow analysis and projects to continue.

## Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure (please also refer to the fact sheet):** No information

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information

3. **Major Groups:** No information

4. **Finance:** No information

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

SWAZILAND

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

**Financial resources and mechanisms are also covered under each sectoral chapter of Agenda 21 where relevant. This summary highlights broader national financial policies, domestic and external (including ODA)**

**NATIONAL PRIORITY:**

**STATUS REPORT:**
Due to a lack of national capacity to review EIAs, major development projects have had an adverse effect on the environment. Many of the environmental costs have been externalised to the people of Swaziland instead of being internalised by the developers.

**CHANGES IN NATIONAL BUDGET TO ADDRESS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:**

**NEW ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS:**

**ELIMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY UNFRIENDLY SUBSIDIES:**

**ODA policy issues**

Donor country.
Receipient

| STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | |
| ODA funding provided or received (Total US$million) | | | | | | |
| | Average for 92-93 | | Average for 94-96 | | | |
| Net flow of external capital from all sources as % of GDP | | | | | | |
| Other data | | | | | | |

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

**NATIONAL PRIORITY:**

**STATUS REPORT:**

**a) Reorientation of education towards sustainable development**

As one of the African countries that participated in the United Nations Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, Swaziland subscribes to the promotion of environmental training, education and, in general, creating public awareness among the masses. The main players in this endeavor are the Ministry of Education for formal programmes, curriculum development and teacher training, the National Environmental Education Programme (NEEP) for non-formal programmes and various extension services from other ministries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Under the formal sector of environmental education, the National Curriculum Centre (NCC) of the Ministry of Education has embarked on developing curricula for the pre-primary and primary levels. At the primary level, there is a separate unit called "Exploring and Protecting the Environment." At the secondary level, the NCC has developed an integrated course known as "Development Studies" which specifically targets environmental education.

The Teacher Training College level has designed its Diploma programme to integrate environmental education, particularly in Science, Social Studies and Agriculture. The University of Swaziland (UNISWA) offers several programmes with environmental relevance in the Departments of Agriculture, Home Economics, Science and Geography. The Chemistry Department has embarked on developing a programme in Environmental Chemistry whereas the Geography Department has been renamed the Department of Geography, Environmental Science and Planning. The name change has been the introduction of diversification and wider coverage of geographic and environmental training. There are three options with a common first year and specialization in Geography Education, Environmental Science, and Urban and Regional Planning for the other three years.

**b) Increasing public awareness**

Among other achievements, the Swaziland Environment Authority (SEA) is conducting Environmental Awareness campaigns throughout Swaziland.

There is limited coverage of environmental issues by the media except for a few workshops, seminars, clean-up campaigns for environmental education and awareness. However, one of the local daily newspapers, the Times of Swaziland, has a supplement once a week on nature conservation (particularly on animals found in game and nature reserves). This is quite plausible and a step in the right direction, but a bit of diversification on the environmental issues would create an all-round awareness. The ideal situation would be that each of the media houses in the country should have a specific programme or page supplement on a regular basis to sensitize the wider population on environmental issues and inculcate the environmental ethic.

**c) Promoting training**

Realising the lack of awareness in environmental issues within the country, a National Environmental Education Programme (NEEP) was initiated by the Miliwane Trust in 1975. The programme was to develop a "Conservation Ethic" for Swaziland which would influence the conservation of nature resources and promote an appreciation of the natural environment. Progress has been minimal; however, two people have been identified and are due for further training as an addition to the two who are already running the programme. NEEP is under the auspices of the Swaziland National Trust commission (SNTC), a parastatal body entrusted, among other things, with creating an environmental education programme. Because of the shortage of personnel and equipment, NEEP is still in its early stages of growth and has much work ahead before it fulfils its objectives. NEEP has been actively involved in promoting environmental education througout the country, at various levels and in different ways. This has been through an outreach programme which includes school visits, field courses, radio programmes, national campaigns and special presentations. This programme was further strengthened beginning April 1994 when a programme supported and founded by IUCN and the European community took over.

Presently, they are working in partnership with clean and Beautiful Swaziland Forum which campaigns for national public awareness promotion to cleaner environments and the proper utilisation of available resources. NEEP is also in partnership with other organizations in a recycling programme (cans) and the Draft Anti-Litter Bill.

**ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS:**
There are a number of NGOs involved in environmental education, including Yonge Nawe, Coordinating Assembly of NGOs, Africa Co-operation Action Trust (ACAT), Emanti Esive, to name a few. Their major thrust is in creating and spreading environmental awareness, education, promotion of community participation, initiating, raising and administering funds for conservation projects, etc. Yonge Nawe is quite popular, especially in schools with their Youth Conservation Clubs. They are changing their strategy of late by forming Adult Conservation Clubs to encourage and support the youth and mobilise other adults.

**FINANCING AND COST EVALUATION OF THE LABOUR ACTIVITIES:** No information

| STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1980 | 1990 | Latest 199- | |
| Adult literacy rate (%) Male | | | | |
| Adult literacy rate (%) Female | | | | |
| % of primary school children reaching grade 5 (1986-97) | | | | |
| Mean number of years of schooling | | | | |
| % of GNP spent on education | | | | |
| Females per 100 males in secondary school | | | | |
| Women per 100 men in the labour force | | | | |
| Other data | | | | |

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

**National capacity building is also covered under sectoral chapters.**
**Donors: You may wish to describe here how Agenda 21 has influenced your ODA policies in this area.**
**Developing countries: You may wish to describe any new national mechanisms for capacity building - and any changes in technical cooperation.**

**NATIONAL PRIORITY:**

**STATUS REPORT ON NATIONAL ENDOGENOUS CAPACITY BUILDING:**

The Government is currently following a "zero policy growth," which has had adverse effects on the staffing of the Department of Environment. It is anticipated, however, that this situation will soon be rectified, particularly if the country is to make any meaningful progress in environmental management. There is also a lack of national capacity to review EIAs. Consequently, major development projects have had an adverse effect on the environment. Many of the environmental costs have been externalised to the people of Swaziland instead of being internalised by the developers.

Swaziland is still lagging behind in the management of its resources. The Government has to review its priorities if the country is to achieve any proress in this field. Although the Swaziland Environment Authority is a relatively new body, it has a wide range of responsibilities under its portfolio. Even with its current constraints regarding the size of its Secretariat, the Authority has approached its work enthusiastically and has made every effort to prioritize its responsibilities in order to give direction to its Secretariat.

## AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

**Ch. 39: International Legal Instruments are covered under the relevant sectoral chapters. This is a listing of major agreements/conventions (not already covered) entered into and relevant to Agenda 21:**

The Government of Swaziland has ratified the following relevant international agreements since 1992:

- -- Convention on Biodiversity ratified in 1994;
- -- Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, ratified in 1992;
- -- Convention to Combat Desertification, ratified in 1996;
- -- Framework Convention on Climate Change, ratified in 1996;
- -- Convention on Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, ratified in 1996;